

# The Pocahontas Times.

If thou would'st read a lesson that will keep Thy heart from fainting and Thy soul from sleep, Go to the woods and hills.—Longfellow.

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## THE MOUNDSVILLE MOUND

From the Fayette Journal

Moundsville, W. Va.—The mound that stands in the heart of this city is certainly one of the wonders of the world. No one knows by whom it was built or does any one know when it was built or how it was built. It was evidently built by the hands of man and that being the case it is entitled to be classified as one of the wonders of the world.

Joseph Tomlinson seems to have lived near it some time before he saw it. It has been stated that the first time he saw it was one evening as he returned home from hunting, with a load of game. He came up to what appeared to him to be a hill and in the way of his progress home. He laid down his gun and started along the foot of it to make an investigation of the nature of the hill and find a gap through which he might pass on his homeward journey. He soon made the circuit and arrived at the spot where he had laid his load of game. He brought his wife the next morning to see it. They ascended it and made a thorough examination of the exterior as far as they could. Mr Tomlinson regarded it as the burying place, and as long as he lived cared for it and protected it as such. It may seem somewhat strange that he was near it so long without having seen it. But when you remember the fact that the flats of Grave Creek were covered with a dense growth of large trees, so dense that one could not see, it may be understood.

Mr Tomlinson found the mound covered with as large trees as the surrounding forest and of the same kind. There was a depression at the top and a large bush stood in the center of it. This tree had a number of names carved upon it when discovered. Some of the dates were as early as 1736. Later many people visited it and carved their names upon it; also the dates of their visits. The tree became literally an autobiography. From 1700 to 1799 many visited it as all who heard of it were anxious to see, the great wonder of the west. A white oak tree stood on the west side of the dike that died at the beginning of the past century that had a valid claim to being "monarch of the surrounding forest." It died apparently of old age. It was cut down carefully and the growth counted and from the number of them the tree was thought to have been five hundred years old. It carried its thickness about fifty feet from the ground and at that point branched out. The entire tree was seventy feet high when standing. It is said to have been fifteen feet around. A red oak stood on the east side of the mound a short distance down the side that from size was entitled to succeed the white oak as monarch if size and age were the direct line of descent of monarchy.

The height of the mound was given as seventy-nine feet and over nine hundred feet circumference at the base and fifty feet across the top.

While Joseph Tomlinson lived he would not allow the mound to be molested as he regarded it as a burying place. He died in 1835 and the land was left to a son who yielded to the persuasion of those who were anxious to explore the interior.

On the nineteenth day of March 1838 the work of making an excavation to examine the interior of the mound was commenced. A tunnel was started in on the north side. It was on a level with the base of the mound and with the level of ground about it.

The tunnel was ten feet high and seven feet wide. It was driven directly south toward the center of the mound. At a distance of one hundred and eleven feet the wall was found. It was eight feet wide by twelve feet long. The sides of the vault were in line with the cardinal points. Its greater length was north and south.

There had been an excavation

made in the earth seven feet deep before the vault was made.

The vault had been made by placing timber upright on the two sides and the ends. They were covered with timbers laid crosswise and these covered with loose stones such as were found anywhere in the flats. The timbers had rotted and fallen in and the stones had fallen into the vault. The outline could be easily traced by the rotten wood which could be crumbled between the thumb and fingers. The vault was as dry as any room.

In this vault two human skeletons were found. One of the skeletons had no ornament about it of any kind while about the other six hundred and fifty ivory beads and an ivory ornament was found. The ornament was six inches long, one and five eighths inches wide in the middle and one half an inch wide at the ends, with two holes through it about one eighth of an inch in diameter. It was flat on one side and oval on the other.

The beads were flat and from three eighths of an inch to five eighths of an inch in diameter. They looked as if they had been sawed from shafts of ivory and holes drilled in the center of them. Some were in a good state of preservation while others crumbled when touched.

The first skeleton found was lying on the back and along the west side of the vault and near it. The feet were about the middle of it and the body was extended full length with the head toward the south. The left arm was lying along the left side and the right arm as if raised over the head, the bones lying about the ear and ever across the head. No ornament of any kind were found about this skeleton. The earth was evidently fallen into the vault before the ceiling had fallen in as it was well preserved. When the bones were placed in their proper place and compared they indicated a human being about five feet and nine inches high. The shape of the head indicates a high degree of intellect.

The second skeleton was lying on the left side with the head to the east. The feet were likewise near the center of the side.

The earth had not fallen in so much upon this skeleton as on the first one found. It was not much broken, though more than the first one found. It was about this skeleton that a number of ornaments were found.

After reaching this vault work below was suspended there and a shaft ten feet in diameter was started at the top in the depression and sunk to a level with the base of the mound and the land around it. At a depth of thirty four or thirty five feet a vault was found that contained a human skeleton and a number of ornaments and a stone upon which were carved some hieroglyphics that surrounded the skeleton.

About seventeen hundred beads, five hundred small shells, and one hundred and fifty pieces of iron, less from one and one half to two inches square, and five copper bracelets were found in this vault. The pieces of iron glass had two or three holes in them about the size of a small awl. The copper bracelets were in good condition and the five together weighed seventeen ounces. They appeared to have been made of round bars bent till the ends met. They were from one fourth to one half an inch in diameter. The bracelets were found about the wrists and the beads and shells about the neck and breast. The shells had been strung and worn as beads. The shells were thought to have been sea shells and very small. The pieces of iron glass had apparently been joined together and worn as a coat. The beads were from the thickness of a postcard to one fourth of an inch.

The stone that has been a mystery was found in the upper vault near the sky door. It was a sand stone of very fine grain, and about half an inch thick. It had no holes in it to indicate that it had been worn as an ornament. It was smooth on one side with hieroglyphics carved on the other side. There were quite a number of copper beads found in the vault with the ivory ones.

There were many things found in the mound usually found in the graves opened elsewhere, such as arrow heads, hatchets, etc. The number of beads counted were those that were in fairly good condition. Many were too much decayed to handle and were not counted. The earth in general, not decayed to be of the same as the ground around the mound. In the interior were found many blue spots which were found upon investigation to be caused by burned bones which was a evidence required to decide the cause of them. From the number of spots there must have been many bodies cremated there in time far past.

After the tunnel and shaft were completed an excavation was made in the interior where they met about twenty five feet in diameter. The openings were walled and arched, and the central one plastered. It was the intention to make the room in the center a museum in which it was proposed to exhibit the relics found in the mound and that as near the spots where they were found as possible. It was abandoned in a few years and the openings have since caved in.

A circular house or observatory was built on the top of the mound soon after the openings were made. It was three stories high. The first story was thirty two feet in diameter the second twenty six feet and the third ten feet in diameter. The roofs were nearly flat and very strong and so that a number of persons could stand upon them without the least danger. From this there was a fine opportunity to view the surrounding country. It was neglected and for many years nothing had been seen of the house or observatory. It went to wreck almost half a century ago.

The relics found in the mound have been scattered till there is nothing left in this country of all that was found therein. L. G. Brock has some of the beads described above. The same as described above. The same as described above. The same as described above.

**Cronlechs**

While the notable stone culvert over the Kee Run, with its arch of large red oak logs that was spanned by smaller white oak timbers, was being constructed, Jonathan and James McNeill, mere boys at the time, worked a few days in place of their stepfather, McKeever. A few yards from the culvert was a large mound of loose stones of various sizes. The spot was marked by a large sugar tree, which was a mere sapling at the time, growing from the side of the mound. Much of the material used in the stone bridge was hauled from this mound. A large flat stone was uncovered in the course of the work. It required the united effort of two or three men to raise it up on end. When thus raised a flattened fragment of a human skull was found, and near it was the semblance of a large knife formed by rust. At this day two or three rods from where the mound was there are two large stones. Until recently there were three such stones. These stones bear suggestive resemblance to those used as Cronlechs by prehistoric people, which bloody sacrifices to the sun were offered. From all this it may be more than plausibly conjectured that the mound was the burial place of a high priest. In reference to Cronlechs, one feature has been observed as common to all they were constructed of unloam stones. Devoted as these Cronlechs were to the most sacred uses that can be imagined, that of sacrificing human beings, why should rough, unadorned materials be used in their construction, virtually without known exception? The most satisfactory reason, as I am given to see it, is found in Exodus 30, 24-5, where instructions are given about the construction of a table for sacred use.

(Continued on page 3)

## THE SHARK STORY

### A Sailor's Yarn

"A life on the ocean wave,  
A home on the rolling deep;  
Where the scattered waters rave,  
And the winds their vigils keep."

It was a sailing vessel, yes, the Brig "Reaper," and in the days when the wind was more relied on, at sea, than steam, and a voyage across the ocean would easily consume a good portion of the year, as many months as now days.

On this log of said vessel, beside the Captain and crew there was the usual quota of travelers; among them a young woman of prepossessing appearance and a little boy of six feet tall and beautiful form and feature with his long golden curls, might have passed for some sweet girl child; these two were mother and son. The lady's speech and manner showed good breeding and in this respect the little boy was the shadow of herself. Around the child there hung an air of physical delicacy and one could suppose that the sea-voyage was undertaken for his health. Such was the case, and for a time the fresh breezes and their saltiness woke up new life within the frail form and mother and child gathered a degree of vivacity the fellow passengers were glad to see. For in those days, if not now, people shut up together in one rolling ship upon the wide restlessly heaving billows grew to have much in common feeling and human interest in each other. I fancy this has largely passed away from the rapidity of present travel; we start, we rush ahead at lightning speed, we reach the terminus amid bewildering confusion, and what time is there for pleasant converse or forming new acquaintanceship?

and death must occur ere we be-think us others are journeying beside ourselves. Then to the credit of humanity, we pause, do all we can, and realize how a drop of suffering makes the whole world akin.

To return to our story. The "Reaper" had been but a few days out from land when two sailors standing at the stern gazed down in the wake of the vessel where one of them, cook of the board, had cast crumbs and refuse from the larder, lowered in countenance and muttered below their breath, "Yes, there it is yet and has followed us from the first stroke on ship log there it is!"

The sailors turned away and among all the crew ran the low murmur, "There it is!" What was the object in the deep water at the stern of the boat creating such awful sensations, filling the breasts of hardy seamen with fear and forboding? They who could bravely face the windy storm and tempest, climb the mast and rig the sails in teeth of furious waves and blackening squalls, who could rush over board in a minute upon the scullip of a tiny boat to rescue a fellow in the deep. What alarmed these stout sea men? Oh, know ye not how the thrall and bondage of a settled belief in certain superstitions can make the knees tremble and strip the soul of courage. Then beware of superstition. It is the buzz-bee of the foolish, the drag chain of the ignorant and hinderer of all comfort, peace and belief in the one Great Being who stoops not to fables, charms, spells, incantation and nonsense of the unbelieving ones of earth.

Well the dreadful object in the sea was a shark, the ravenous, fish-eating fish that had kept its den in the wake of the vessel for days. Sailors, some of them, in times gone by, would, held it a fancy or superstition that this indicated a coming death on board ship during the voyage on hand. Certain it was that a shark, whether it came or not, continually followed the vessel. The sailors shook their heads, they looked at one another and most probably said a sailor thought of our fell by bell's Arthur who was ever at his mother's side as a messenger of herself, sometimes on deck when the winds were asleep

sometimes with fellow travelers in their cabins and at times overlooking the loosely clad sailors at their work or resting from toils of the waters. The sons of the sea roughly seeming were gentle as women toward the little boy who had the spirit of a young lion joined to a physical part frail as the spring blossom. "May I climb the rigging to the sky?" asked Arthur of a six foot tar. "How some a baby in the mizen top?" rejoined the merry son of Neptune. "Yes, but my father followed the sea," answered the child. "He did, did he?" "We are at home on shipboard and among sailors," said Mrs. M. in a sweet soft winning accent, "my husband's main abode was on the rolling deep and we were often with him." "Then the boy must be a son of the ocean wave," added the sailor, patting Arthur's golden curls, and without reflection of Mrs. M.'s mourning habit, "Where is the father now?" A look of more than childish sorrow filled the clear blue eyes as they gazed upward to the questioner, and the reply, "O sailor man, where there is no more sea."

A moment's hush, and the child added, "My mother says all ships are making for that port, that heavenly land where there is no more sea; you know about it, don't you?" The big sailor answered tenderly, "Not so much as I ought to tho' I had a good mother once and her bible is in my chest now; I'll read it this night and learn of that dear harbor we sailors would fain reach, no Davy's locker there, see true?" "Let's go, my little boy," said the mother gently, "we are stealing the men's time." "Nay nay," put in several voices, "it is no gude for us, speak on leddy and the binnacle here, and a word to the best steam and oak-ing fields of West Virginia, and those behind the project are no doubt figuring on getting the bulk of this business. The interests backing the company are also credited with owing thousands of acres of coal lands only awaiting the completion of the road to be developed with all the rapidity that simple means will assure.

The cost of the road, with terminals, etc., is estimated to be about \$36,000,000. It goes thro' a mountainous country, which makes the construction both difficult and costly. The builders, however, are taking little account of the expense, the idea being to provide the best that money can obtain. They are saying nothing whatever about their plans; in fact some of the officials of the company have remarked from time to time since the work began that the public need not be concerned about the property until asked to invest.

When the plans of the company for building the road first became known the idea was ridiculed by many. The interest behind the company did not take the pains to try to correct the opinion, but on the contrary went quietly ahead with their plans, and today the road is nearing completion. Up to four years ago only about four miles of road, between Deepwater and Robson, had been built, but since then work has been going on in earnest. It is now believed in some quarters that the road will eventually be extended through to the Lakes. In that event, it is said the cost of the entire line will not be less than fifty million dollars. Should a terminus be established on the Lakes, the Tidewater would be able to offer a splendid northward traffic in exchange for grain for the seaboard and doubtless hurt many of the roads now in operation in that territory.—Free Press.

Notice

We request that all persons knowing themselves indebted to us, will make settlement in full by January 13, 1907. PLEASE PROMPTLY, as we are not asking anything more than what is due us.

WILMOTH & KEAR,  
Durbin, W. Va.

## The Tidewater-Deepwater

Richmond, Va. The Tidewater-Deepwater railway, being built in Virginia and West Virginia, is attracting considerable attention from railroad officials in all parts of the country, owing to the fact that the company has not offered any stock or bonds to the public. Henry H. Rodgers, of Standard Oil Co., is the backer of the road.

The Tidewater-Deepwater road is being constructed through one of the richest coal fields in the country, and is now nearing completion. It extends from Deepwater, W. Va., to Hampton Roads, Va., about 500 miles. Deepwater, the western terminus of the road, is merely a whistling point on the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad, about 35 miles southeast of Charleston, on the Kanawha river. The 1900 census places the population of the place at 135.

There are many things about the new road which are causing railroad men to take a deep interest in the new company. First is the substantial manner in which the work is being done. Eighty-five pound rails are being laid, while the grades are easy and much less than those of the C. & O. or N. & W., with which the new road will come into competition at places. The viaducts are all of steel, built on double tracts, while the tunnels are larger than others in the territory. On the N. & W. the average height of tunnels is 17 feet, while none of those on the Tidewater are less than 22 feet. Then, too, the track is well ballasted, and there are few curves on the line.

The new railway is being built from starting point to destination without reference to local business of interior points. The route follows the ancient Erie Canal, and the best steam and oak-ing fields of West Virginia, and those behind the project are no doubt figuring on getting the bulk of this business. The interests backing the company are also credited with owing thousands of acres of coal lands only awaiting the completion of the road to be developed with all the rapidity that simple means will assure.

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## A LEGEND OF THE GREEN-BRIER

W. B. Black, in the London, Ohio, Times

DEAR EDITORS: I enclose you a spring of native holly in token of Christmas-tides. Also a section of the celebrated greenbrier, from which our county and river take their name. Greenbrier is known to many of our readers, but perhaps they do not know the story connected with it. Let me relate it.

One hundred and fifty years ago the first settlers of this region noticed the greenbrier, and wondered at its color, which remains the same in winter and summer. They had never met with its like, and there grew up among them the idea that its roots were immersed in water, without which it would wither and turn brown as other vines do in the fall and winter. This led to the supposition that an underground lake existed in this region. (If they had guessed oil they would have been right.)

Now, our county is so up-and-down in physical aspect that we have to build mostly on the slopes. To get water, when we need it, we have to go to the valley below. We have known people to do without water (when other drinks were handy) for a week rather than take the trouble of descending a hillside to the spring.

One day a man, who lived on a hillside, and who had so cupped his legs by continually carrying two buckets of water up the slope that his tailor had to stretch the goals around a grindstone when cutting out his trousers, conceived the idea that he could dig a well and thus end his wearying days.

He called a council of wisdom and they agreed it would turn out well. As he had a spot of level land about ten feet square and as there was an enormous greenbrier growing about the center of it, he determined that he would have a well dug there, and thus end his water carrying misery.

Relieved from his drudgery he believed that his legs would straighten out again and life become one "grand sweet song" of hóg and hominy and peach-and-honey, (a well and highly beloved drink of those days, composed of New England rum, honey and water, now supplanted by a dreadful grade of raw "corn licker.")

So he prepared by hiring two well diggers, expecting them to strike water at from ten to twelve feet, and not to occupy more than two days with the job. He directed them to use the greenbrier as the center of the digging, and to expedite matters promised them a quart of rum as soon as the contract was fulfilled. So the two diggers went to work with a will and the boss took his two buckets and straddled down the slope after the eternal round of water.

At the end of three days the well was 12 feet deep, but rock had been struck. Through a rift in the center of this rock the greenbrier had come up, and it looked to the diggers as if it had crawled through this hole or rift purposely to annoy them. But everyone supposed that just below the stratum of shale the desired water would be found in great abundance, and that a few blows of the pick would uncover its liquid clearness. So the diggers laid lay down and slept the sleep of the just, but the old man moaned in his sleep and dreamed that he had died and was sentenced to tote water uphill as a penalty for his sins.

Time passed on and the diggers prized up the rock and dirt to beat the band. Then they rigged up a windlass, and as the earth and pebbles were hoisted and spread on the inequalities it made more and more level land for the old man. And still the greenbrier was there in the center of the hole, heading straight down towards the center of the earth. It was then that another council of the wise men was called. They

were God-fearing men most y Presbyterians, and as they drained their mugs of peach-and-honey they shook their heads and said it was a strange adventure. After many mugs they decided that it was best to abandon the well. But the owner, who had spent much time and money on the project, swore by the big red buck of Otter creek that he would not quit as long as he had an English shilling to keep the work going.

And the elders looked on with horror, and warned him that if he kept on he would presently strike hell, where the water was unfit for use, even if he could get any, and that they would cast him from the church and regard him as an alien and a barbarian henceforth if he stopped not in his wicked purpose.

But with bulldog tenacity he held to his determination, and as the diggers were willing to go as deep as the money lasted, the well made a gradual approach to the center of the earth. At 60 feet the well was dry as a bone, but the greenbrier was there, heading straight down. It was noticed that its color was of a brighter green, which the wise men said was caused by the sulphur of the bottomless pit, and they meditated seriously on the urgency of seizing and binding the old man and stopping the work before he broke through the crust and unoccupied the bad place right in their midst. But after a mug or two they abandoned the idea especially as they remembered that the old man was mounting guard over the well with an old bellmuzzed duck gun of fucose and would certainly cause trouble if interfered with.

At 70 feet there was no change in the old man's determination, and he was carried in and laid upon the bed. He told the wise men in a weak voice that he had been a sinner and that he was bound for perdition. He had carried water until he wished that he might go to a place where there wasn't any. So if they would kindly dig a few feet further in the well they could drop him through the hole without much trouble. And saying this, he passed away.

But the wise men declined to follow his advice, not wishing to endanger their own hides, so they buried him under six feet of good earth and rocks, and left the task of consigning him to his eternal abode to the other hands. And each one as they passed the well cast in a rock and in the course of time it was filled up in that way so that no man knows where it was.

But the greenbrier still flourishes, and although it is under the ban of all good men, it continues to grow in spite of them. Where its roots begin we know not, but it comes out of the ground in a mighty good section of country. Every native West Virginia makes it his solemn duty to cut off a greenbrier wherever he sees it, though it can't be killed in that way. Some people might not want to live so close to hades as some people do cut here, but we none of us ourselves with the thought that as long as we can keep a hundred feet between us and hell we are sure to be in heaven.

Jessie Hammond was found in an unconscious condition by the road side some miles out from town on Cold Knob Mountain about noon Monday. He was taken in but died a few hours later. Hammond was a young man about 23 years old and lived in Greenbrier county. He had been working on Big Laurel and started to cross the mountain Sunday. It is supposed that he had been drinking, became unable to travel and lay in the snow from Sunday evening until found Monday. His remains were taken to his home in Greenbrier for burial.—Nicholas Register.

I have 100 flat glass eyes for sale; will sell for cash or four months time. For further information apply to R. H. Bally, Story Bottom, W. Va.